

CLAIMS

I Claim:

Claim 1 – An orthopedic device, comprising, in combination:

a threaded shaft said shaft having one terminus with rotational means,

a cup having a rotational means receiving area dimensioned to allow rotation

of said threaded shaft about said one terminus,

said cup having a transverse slot,

a rod passing through said slot,

and means to fix said rod and said threaded shaft into a fixed position relative to said cup.

Claim 2 - The device of claim 1 wherein said threaded shaft has first and second thread patterns thereon.

Claim 3 - A method for supporting a skeletal structure, the steps including:

deploying fasteners with support cups;

deploying a support rod;

orienting the cups so the rod abuts the fasteners;

and fixing the rod and fasteners together.

Claim 4 - The device of claim 2 wherein said threaded shaft first and second thread patterns have differing thread pitch, such that said second thread pattern has finer threads than said first thread pattern.

Claim 5 - The device of claim 4 wherein said thread patterns have crests which are axially offset from their respective roots, inducing a radially inward directed force.

Claim 6 - The device of claim 5 wherein said first and second thread crests face each other inducing compressive free axially.